



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

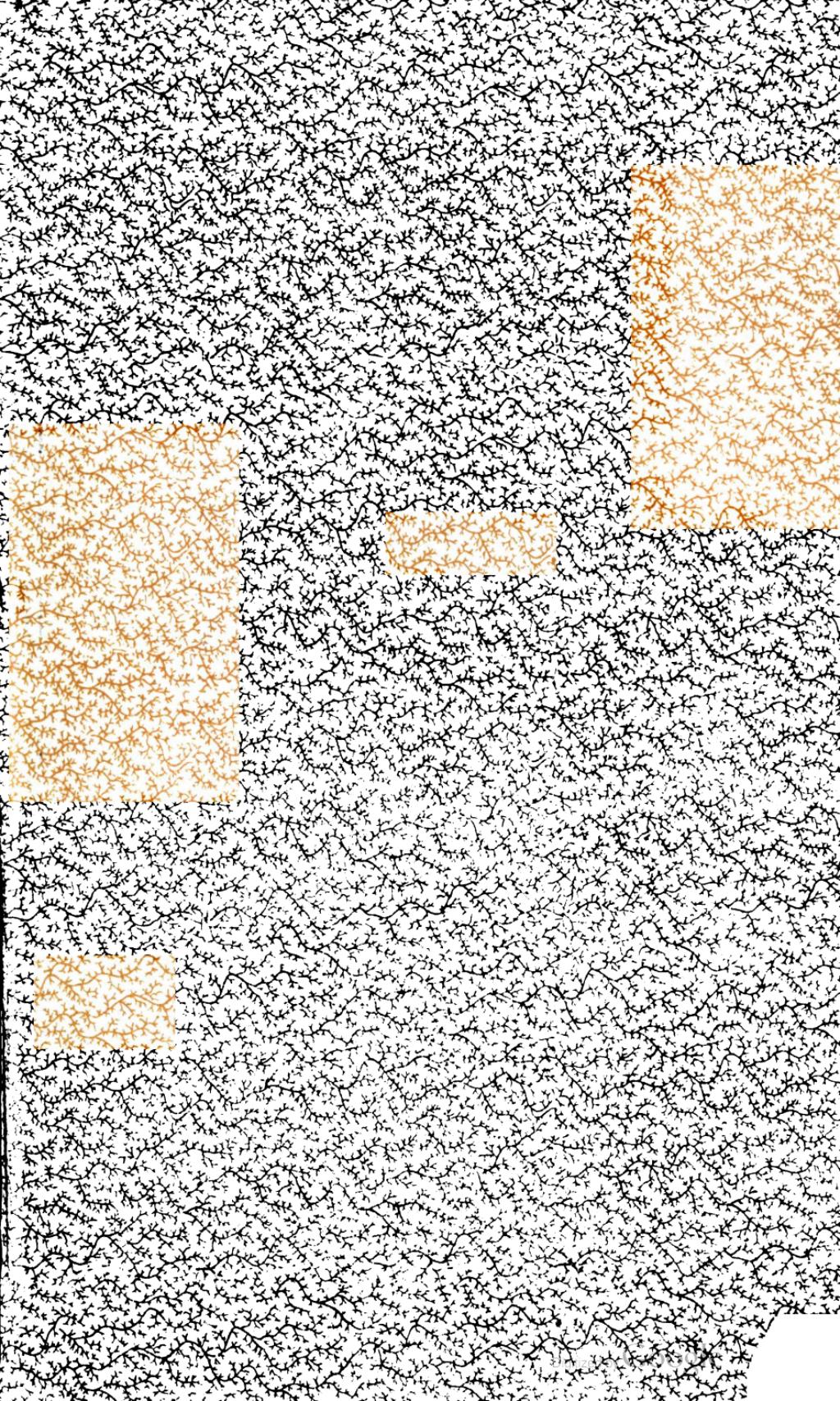
We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>







9335

~~John~~

Hugh Robert Estlin

eck

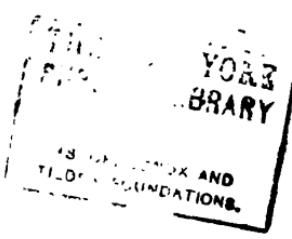
8184

Mackinnon

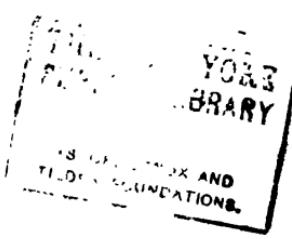
CX

**SOME ACCOUNT
OF THE
FALKLAND ISLANDS,
&c. &c.**

J. Falkland Islands - Description, 1838-39.



Falkland Islands - Describ'd, 1838-39.





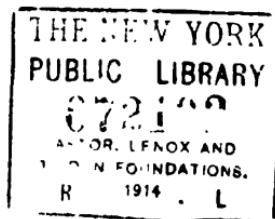
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

SOME ACCOUNT
OF THE
FALKLAND ISLANDS,
FROM A
SIX MONTHS' RESIDENCE
IN 1838 AND 1839.

BY L. B. MACKINNON, R.N.,
FIRST MATE OF
H. M. CUTTER, "ARROW."

LONDON:
A. H. BAILY AND CO., 83, CORNHILL.

1840.



A. H. Baily & Co., Printers, 83, Cornhill, London.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
A. H. LENOX AND
T. B. H. FOUNDATIONS

INTRODUCTION.

IT may, perhaps, appear presuming in a young man, who entered the navy at an early age, to obtrude himself on the public on this occasion. The only excuse that can be offered is, that some anxiety has of late been expressed on the subject of these islands by many, that a spirit of enterprise and colonization pervades the community, and that no one as yet has given any particular account, founded on a residence of some months, which was the case with me, of the soil, climate, and productions of this secluded, and falsely called dangerous cluster of islands in South America.

It is much to be regretted that my excellent and most able commander* does not undertake a description of this part of South America, as I cannot forbear saying, that he is much better qualified, in every respect, for the undertaking than I can pretend to be.

There can be no necessity for me to enter into any particular account of these islands in reference

* B. J. Sullivan, Esq., commander of the 'Arrow.'

to former times ; to give such a narration would be unimportant, and prove an useless waste of time.

Since their first discovery in 1592, by John Davis, the companion of Cavendish (in his second voyage of discovery) they were successively occupied by French, English, and Spanish adventurers, and subsequently abandoned by each in their turn. After the emancipation of South America from the Spanish dominion, the Argentine Government made a grant of East Falkland to Don Louis Vernet, who, after surmounting many difficulties, and under several privations, was advancing prosperously in his attempt at colonization, when, unfortunately, he seized two American vessels whose crews were catching seals on his island. In consequence of this aggression, an American ship of war landed a body of men, who broke up his gardens, tore down his fences, razed his buildings, and destroyed every thing they could reach ; taking away his agent and servants as prisoners to Buenos Ayres, he at the time being absent from the settlement. The result of this wanton outrage of the American commander was an entire annihilation of the settlement, and complete ruin to Vernet ; since which period these islands were for some years left at the mercy of navigators of all nations, who landed there as suited their convenience, and made use of the supplies which they afforded, in the manner usual to uneducated men left without restraint, in wast-

ing and destroying whatever fell in their hands which could not be rendered available, or be taken away.

This state of things lasted until the British Government again took possession, at a very recent period, fully authorized by the treaty of Spain, which formally ceded them to England, shortly after Admiral Madariga had forcibly expelled the British colonists in 1770 from Port Egmont.

It seems, however, that the several nations, by whom the previous possession, or seizure, of the Falklands was attempted, and afterwards given up, did not act in the latter manner from choice, but were forced to do so, from the jealousy entertained by the Spanish Government, who were adverse to any settlement being formed by either the French, English, or Dutch, so near their possessions in South America. Whatever expeditions, therefore, made by either of the first-mentioned nations, to occupy these islands, were after a short time expelled by the Spaniards, either by force, or by representations made to the several governments to which the settlers were subject.

The jealousy on the part of the Spaniards continued, so long as they held their power over great part of the continent of the New World, and of South America; when, in the course of events, and from the progress of civilization, the Spanish power in Mexico and South America was destroyed, no further notice or care was taken by Spain,

of the Falkland Islands, which were left to their fate.

The same cause, however, that induced the Spaniards to abandon their possessions in South America, prevented for a time any notice being taken of these islands by those nations whose attention, capital, and commercial relations were much engrossed by the treasures contained in the mountains of Mexico, Peru, and Brazil, and by the demands on manufacturing industry made by those people, who throwing off the Spanish yoke, were emerging from barbarism into a state of civilization, and craving for the enjoyments of European luxuries and refinement.

I have deemed it right to account for the rather singular circumstance, that the Falkland Islands are not even to this hour in any manner colonized, and are lying waste; they are merely under our flag, and have a small British vessel of war to keep that flag flying.

In this my narration let me be understood as being most anxious to avoid all partiality or prejudice, "nought to extenuate or set down in spleen," regarding this portion of the globe. I wish to state as fairly and impartially as I can what has come under my observation; at the same time I will fairly acknowledge, that my residence on their shores has stamped a favourable impression on my mind, in relation to these islands, which may perhaps in some cases give a tinge occasion-

ally, *couleur de rose*, to my description; without my being aware that such is the case, "verum dicere et principium et fons est narrandi," shall be my motto, as far as I am able to form an opinion.

It will be my endeavour to describe faithfully whatever has come under my observation, without drawing any conclusion, or venturing an opinion; only to state facts, and let my readers judge for themselves.

SOME ACCOUNT
OF THE
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

THE 'Arrow' cutter was fitted out by order of the Admiralty, for the purpose of surveying the Falkland Islands, in the year 1838, under the command of B. J. Sullivan, Esq., myself, as first or senior mate, second in command. It seems the desire of the Admiralty was, that not only should the Falkland Islands be accurately surveyed, but that we should take out various useful seeds, and implements of agriculture, and various things conducive to the health and comfort of the few people there. As I considered they might also be useful, I procured a male and female blood-hound of the New Forest breed. Our vessel, though small, being only 163 tons, was admirably adapted both in form and rig, and every thing requisite for such a voyage, and the care, skill, and admirable management, that is always displayed in every department of the naval service in this country, enabled us to set out with every requisite accompaniment for our comfort and safety, and for the accomplishment of the service for which we were intended.

On the 9th July we sailed finally from Falmouth, and on the following day lost sight of Old England, cheered on by the birth of ten little blood-hounds, which we considered a good omen of our future success. After a few days of stormy and adverse winds in the far-famed Bay of Biscay, we found a favourable breeze which steadily conducted us into the N.E. trade wind, which at this time of year is generally found at 30° N. lat. On the 24th we passed Madeira, threading the Salvages* the following day; and the next morning anchoring off Santa Cruz, at Teneriffe, where we immediately commenced watering, and refreshed ourselves with the delicious fruits of that island.

At three o'clock the same day, after stowing away sundry casks of wine, we weighed and proceeded on our course, with a powerful trade wind. For several days we steadily progressed before the influence of this wind, making a direct course for the Cape de Verds, surrounded, as is usually the case, with various tropical birds, dolphins, flying fish, and sometimes passing a huge whale. I cannot here forbear remarking, although irrelevant to the voyage, a singular substitute I procured for my hounds' usual food. From the lowness of our bulwarks the flying-fish were continually flying on board, and at night, attracted by the glare of a lantern in the main rigging, in such quantities

* An assemblage of rocks so called.

as fully to provide two good meals a day. On the afternoon of the 30th July, finding ourselves approaching St. Jago, and the wind falling light in consequence, we hauled off a little more to the westward, to get out of the light winds and calms prevalent off the coast of Africa. Four days after we ran out of our old friend the N.E. trade in latitude 6° north; good luck, however, or what is more probable, the skill of my excellent commander, whose experience led him to cross the line between 29° and 30° W. longitude, enabled us to get into the S.E. trade in a very short time, in 2° north; and although, when we first felt this new trade, the course we were enabled to steer would not have permitted us to weather St. Hogue, still we went on, as my commander's experience told him that as we made southing, the wind would back to the eastward, and enable us to lay our course. His judgment was borne out by the result, as every mile we made south we gradually came up, until in 10° south, when we run along the coast of Brazil with a flowing sheet. There cannot be a better proof of this being the best course to adopt (at this time of year) for the South American voyage, than that a packet, a faster sailer than our little vessel, sailed four days before us from Falmouth, crossed the line (as we afterwards found by comparing notes) several degrees to the eastward of us, and did not arrive at Rio

until nine days after, making a difference of thirteen days.

At five o'clock on the morning of the 17th August, the exact time we expected, we made the high land off Cape Frio, and late the same night anchored in the magnificent harbour of Rio de Janeiro. This place has been so often described, that I shall content myself with saying, it is a most magnificent harbour, with the most beautiful scenery in the world, but dreadfully relaxing. Every thing of every kind can be procured in abundance.

After various refittings, and replenishing our store of water, provisions, &c., at daylight on the morning of the 10th September we swept out of harbour, it being perfectly calm, and immediately got a favourable wind; ran away south along the coast, calling to land the mail, at St. Catherine's, a small Brazilian town in lat. 28° South. Here in perfection we found that beautiful bird the king penguin, and occasionally a huge albatross would glide by. Favourable winds still attended us until the 18th September, when, just as we made Cape St. Mary, at the entrance or mouth of Rio de la Plata, the wind shifted suddenly to south, and kept us in nearly the same position for two days. I merely mention this to show that the cold is generally much exaggerated by voyagers in the Southern Hemisphere, as we all

felt so chilly, we could hardly believe our eyes when we found the thermometer (Farh.) stood nearly up to 45°.

On the evening of the Saturday following, we anchored off the town of Monte Video, which we found in a state of siege, in consequence of a civil war having broken out, and Don Fruitos, the ex-president, was blockading the town.

After again refreshing ourselves with the various productions of this beautiful climate, we seized the opportunity of the first fair wind, and on running about thirty-five miles further up the Rio de Plata, for the purpose of getting into pure fresh water, we completed our stock of that necessary article, and finally bid adieu to the coast of South America. Having a fresh north-easter, we thought it best to keep within a moderate distance of the coast of Patagonia, as the south-west and north-west winds being most prevalent, we might be better protected, in case of getting them, by the main land, which would make comparatively smooth water for us. We advanced steadily, the wind gradually freshening as we increased our southing, and consequently our cold, until the 9th October, when the wind, as is usual in those latitudes, gradually shifted round to the westward, increasing in strength, as it slowly veered round, until it arrived at south-west, where it remained some days, giving us a specimen of a gale in this climate, accompanied with tremendous squalls

and snow-storms. As at this time we had arrived in lat. 50° south and long. 62° west, we were enabled occasionally to show our storm sails, and draw gradually on towards our destination, although in a very heavy and dangerous cross sea, which made our supple and comfortable little vessel to twist and writhe in a most extraordinary fashion.

On the morning of the 14th, after a most severe and biting cold snow-storm, on going up the main rigging for that purpose, we could just discern some low land, covered with snow, which proved to be the north side of the east island; by carrying sail and using other exertions we managed before nightfall to get close up under the lee of the land, and sighted the Eddystone rock. After laying-to all night, at daylight the following morning, the gale having considerably abated, we made sail along the land. We were all much struck with the barren and desolate aspect of the country; all the high and great portion of the low lands being covered with snow, the contrast making the land that was bare inconceivably bleak and miserable in appearance. At twelve o'clock, we passed close round the Volunteer rocks, that form one point of the entrance of Berkeley Sound. These rocks were literally covered with seals, principally fur seals, but with a sprinkling of hair ditto, and sea lions. Here we began to form a better opinion of the land, as in

beating-up we had to approach alternately each side of the sound within a hundred yards, so bold is the shore, that we could go round when our heel was positively entangled in the huge beds of sea-weed, or kelp, which completely line every part of the coast, and grow on every shoal round to the depth of sixteen fathoms, forming a natural fence of buoys, wherever there is danger. To our inexpressible delight, on approaching the south shore, we perceived several wild horses, who no sooner were aware of our approach than, with noses high in air, they galloped off; on a closer advance we could plainly see enormous quantities of penguins, who gazed at us with stupid astonishment, and birds of all kinds and sorts. At five o'clock we came-to off the settlement, Port Louis, and were all much disappointed at its insignificance, as it only consisted of two small houses, in one of which lived the governor, Lieut. Lowcay, and three or four mud huts, occupied by three gauchos and their families.

The first impression formed of this island was very unfavourable, inasmuch as the view is concerned, the whole appearing a large barren moor, running up on the north side, to high hills, the tops of which were bare and bleak sharp pointed rocks. All this part, to the northward of Berkeley Sound, is principally a boggy peaty soil, difficult to drain, and I should think from that circumstance unfavourable to agriculture, there are, how-

ever, several spots of good land, on which any vegetable that grows in England will flourish, and a very excellent pasturage throughout. Near Fort Louis, under the care of a gaucho, are about two hundred tamed cattle, which are driven in, as required by the inhabitants, on the demand caused by any unexpected arrival; these thrive well. There are also several thoroughly tamed milch cows, that are attached to the settlement for milk and butter, any quantity of which with very little trouble might be made. We found three large gardens, comprising altogether about two-and-a-half acres, where every English vegetable that has been tried, has succeeded well. There are several quarries of clay slate stone about, from which excellent building material may be procured; indeed, there is no lack of that article throughout the island. Close in the vicinity are large beds of peat. Immense quantities of rabbits burrow in all this part of the island, so much so that as many as twenty dozen have been killed in a day by one man and two dogs. Snipe, teal, wild geese, ducks, plover, dotterell, and gulls of great variety and beauty, are to be found in incredible quantities, and so tame as sometimes to be killed with a stick. On one occasion I walked up to and caught a rabbit. In this neighbourhood are unfortunately a pack of wild dogs, escaped from the settlement; they do great mischief to the wild colts and calves, worrying and destroying

several. They are now, however, on the decrease, in consequence of a reward offered for their destruction. The anchorage in Port Louis is excellent, being a stiff clay, and from five to ten fathoms of water, completely sheltered from every wind, and safe for ships of any size; there are several creeks and little harbours running up, in different parts, where coasters might safely lay aground to deliver or take in cargo: in these creeks are easily taken with a net great quantities of a kind of boss, very palatable. In one of these, called Fish-house Creek, are the ruins of a drying establishment, in which Don Louis Vernet, the governor, under the Argentine Republic, prepared this fish for the Brazilian market. In the sound are several islands, covered with a species of large flag grass, (very nutritious for cattle), called tussoch, which makes capital thatching, superior to straw. Hogg Island, one of these, so named in consequence of some tame swine having run wild, and several others were in a similar state.

The prevalent winds are from N.W. to South. When at S.W., heavy squalls, with snow or rain, as the season may be, are to be expected; but the only winds that bring continued rain are the easterly. Mr. Sulivan informed me, from the concurrent testimony of the oldest residents, that north-east winds had never been so prevalent as during this season. In his remarks he states, "It is likely we did not experience drier weather than is usual, but very probably the reverse."

Amongst other remarkable phenomena in these islands is the infrequency of lightning ; except a few very distant flashes, we only once experienced any, and that very trifling in appearance, which accompanied a heavy squall of rain and hail during a S.W. gale, and which passed close over Port Louis. It is rather singular that a small sailing schooner belonging to Mr. Melville, laying there at the time, should have had her main-mast severely injured, and pump split to pieces by it. Another thing to be particularly remarked, is the fineness of the nights ; the stars generally shining with peculiar brilliancy, more like a tropical night, and the sky cloudless to a degree, considering the high latitude. Towards daylight a low mist generally hangs over the land, accompanied by slight rain, which usually disappears after sunrise.

The N.W. winds are drying in an extraordinary degree, one of our heavy storm staysails of No. 1 canvass, being fit to stow away, from being perfectly wet, after thirty-five minutes' exposure.

The climate of these islands is decidedly boisterous, but certainly more healthy than that of England, as it is quite free from that damp, clammy and foggy cold which is so unpleasant both to our feelings and in its consequences. Although nearly every person in our expedition was more or less wet through for hours every day, we had not a single case of sickness ; indeed, of upwards of one

hundred persons living on and about the islands, I do not recollect that one required medical assistance—accidents, of course, excepted. A better proof of good health cannot be brought forward than the enormous increase of appetite that we all experienced on our arrival; and from the great plenty of game of all kinds, we were amply satisfied in that respect, without any expense on our parts, as we had been most liberally supplied with powder and shot by Admiralty order.

Soil and Geological Remarks.

The northern part of the east island is occupied by two parallel ranges of hills, entirely composed of a compact quartz rock. Between the east end of these ranges lies Berkeley Sound, which runs about sixteen miles to the westward; where a narrow neck of low land separates it from Port St. Salvador, which is a deep inlet that has forced a passage through the northern range of hills, then runs nearly east and west between these two ranges. This land is principally composed of ridges of sandstone and clay-slate; the former predominates. Near and round Port Louis, and along the northern shore of Berkeley Sound, the land is free from bog, except in the bottoms, where it is spongy for some yards on each side of the little streamlets, that are almost always found.

The surface is composed generally of a dark vegetable mould, from six inches to two feet in

depth, resting on a yellow earth, which is in some places gravelly and in others resembles clay—it is the surface of the yellow sandstone decomposed. Immediately, however, that you approach the rise of the quartz hills, the ground becomes soft and spongy, and continues so to the very summit, and is only passable for a man on horseback in dry weather and particular places. This applies to the whole tract of land (with a few exceptions) to the northern coast. It would, therefore, I anticipate, be a very difficult, if not impossible task, to drain this, as it retains water like a sponge. The above are the reasons which make me come to the conclusion that, however well Port Louis may be calculated for the seat of government, it will never profitably become the head-quarters of the agricultural interest.

Darwin, in his interesting work, states, "The geological* structure of these islands is, in most respects, simple; the lower country consists of clay, slate, and sandstone associated together, and the hills of white granular quartz rock; the strata of the latter are frequently arched with perfect symmetry, and the appearance of some of the masses is, in consequence, most singular. As a passage between the quartz and sandstone can be traced, it seems probable that the former owes its origin to the sandstone having been heated to such an excess that it became viscid, and upon

* Darwin, page 253.

cooling crystallized; while in the soft state it must have been pushed up through the overlying beds."

"In many parts of the island the bottoms of the valleys are covered in an extraordinary manner by myriads of great angular fragments of the quartz rock. These have been mentioned with surprise by every voyager since the time of Pernety. The whole may be called a stream of stones; the blocks vary in size from that of a man's chest to ten or twenty times as large, and occasionally they altogether exceed such measures."^{*}

Their small angle of inclination is a remarkable circumstance in these streams of stones. On the hill sides I have seen them sloping at an angle of ten degrees with the horizon; but, in some of the level, broad-bottomed valleys, the inclination is only just sufficient to be clearly perceived. On so rugged a surface there was no means of measuring the angle; but, to give a common illustration, I may say that the slope alone would not have checked the speed of an English mail-coach. In some places a continuous stream of these fragments followed up the course of a valley, and even extended to the very crest of the hill. On one occasion curiosity led me to follow up a stream of these stones to the very summit of a hill; as it was very laborious work, we were fre-

* Darwin, page 254.

quently obliged to rest awhile, when we could plainly hear a stream running rapidly several feet beneath us, and of course out of sight. I can compare this to nothing but a carelessly and rudely laid down Brobdignag road.

The wild cattle are certainly magnificent animals, and numerous in the east island. They are rapidly increasing now that foreigners and marauders are kept off, although there is still a disproportionate number of bulls. It is very singular that on the north side of this island, as far as Port Pleasant, the cattle are generally of a dark colour, some bulls being of the most jetty black, with long shaggy hair about the head and neck; to the southward they get lighter and lighter, until, at the extreme south, at times, you meet with whole herds of a beautiful white colour. The bulls are much larger in proportion to the cows; some of them seem of a different breed, from the great height and development of the shoulder, and comparatively low quarters; these we generally found very cunning and ferocious, and most dangerous to attack.

From the collective opinions of Mr. Sullivan, the Capatoz of the Gauchos, and my own observation, I should think that thirty thousand head would be a moderate computation of their numbers, nearly one-third of which are bulls. The wild horses never leave the north side of the island, which is most singular, as there is no obstruction; it has

never been satisfactorily accounted for. They are excessively shy and timorous to a party, but Captain Fitz-Roy observes that they will form a circle round a single man, and prance upon him; however, a musket will readily disperse them. Their average height is about fourteen hands two inches, lighter built than the generality of South American horses, with no great powers of endurance, and sadly cow-hocked, or cat-hammed; but, to make some amends, they are as active as cats, and have very well-shaped fore-legs, the fore-arm long, muscular, and strong, a short flat shank, with well bent postern. The stallions, as well as the bulls, are very fierce and pugnacious with one another. One horse, a fine stallion, which was shot by Mr. Sullivan, had the near hind-leg, just above the hock joint, broken (we supposed by fighting). Nature had gone a long way towards a cure, and no doubt remains on my mind that he would have quite recovered had not our party come suddenly on him. He seemed to gallop off with a slight lameness, and even after Mr. Sullivan's unerring bullet had pierced his lungs, he went three hundred yards before he fell dead. Several bulls also that we killed bore very significant marks of the combats they had been in; three of them were lame, from old and imperfectly cured fractures of different limbs. The stallions do not bear the same proportion to the mares, as the cattle, by a great deal. From what we saw and heard, Mr. Sullivan agrees

with me in thinking that their numbers altogether do not exceed twelve hundred.

I cannot here forbear mentioning a story of one of the Falkland stallions, told me by Corinet (a Patagonian Indian, acting as a gaucho), as we were exploring together. The horse I was then riding, called Teniente, had been captured, some years ago, during Don Louis Vernet's government, but was found so vicious, ferocious, and cunning, that not one even of the gauchos could manage him. After having resorted to every method they could think of to subdue him, it was proposed (this Corinet told me with a chuckle) by himself to take the animal some miles into the interior, and fasten him to a wild bull's horns. This, with the assistance of two or three lassos, was soon done, and the poor brute's tail was securely lashed with thongs of hide to the horns of the wildest in the flock. The gauchos immediately returned home, highly delighted with their exploit. The next morning, on getting up, the first thing they saw was poor Teniente with his head hanging down, looking very miserable and distressed, standing at the craal gate; he had killed the bull, whose skull was found completely beaten in. Teniente's heart was broken; he never even pretended to vice afterwards.

The only quadruped that seems indigenous to the islands is the warrah, or wolf-fox, a specimen of which was brought home by Captain Fitz-Roy,

and placed in the British Museum. Bourgainville, in speaking of this animal, says : “ Il suit à gibier il se fait des routes avec intelligence, toujours par le plus court chemin, d'une bail à l'autre. A notre première descente à terre, nous de doutâmes point que ce ne fut des sentiers d'habitans.” It is much larger than the English fox, being about the size of a middle-sized Newfoundland dog ; they have not the slightest fear of man, so much so that, on one occasion, as we were returning with a party of men from hunting, well loaded with meat, I was much surprised (as I was bringing up the rear of my party through the shallow water, to where the boat was laying aground), by one of the men calling out, “ Look behind, sir, look behind ! ” On turning suddenly round, and bringing my rifle to the *present*, I observed a warrah, within fifteen yards, advancing upon me, snarling and shewing his teeth. I returned this compliment by putting my rifle ball between his eyes. The water was about a foot deep. On another occasion a large female came down on a cliff, within a hundred yards of our stern, whilst the ship's company were at dinner, howling defiance at us. A shot from my rifle broke her hind leg. On landing, she showed desperate fight with our dog La Porte, and the butt of my gun, and it was with great difficulty, and at the expense of some severe bites given to the brave dog, that we managed to vanquish her at last.

By tracking their footsteps in a sandy bay, we once managed to get at a burrow, and, by the help of a net and some smoke, we caught three—an old male, and two cubs, male and female: after a time, the old one became tame enough to allow its feeder to handle it; the young female, which belonged to me, threw amazingly, but was untameable. I was in great hopes of bringing the breed to England, she having become pregnant, but I was unfortunately robbed of her by an accident, the day before my departure.

Wild boar, or rather common swine, run wild, are very plentiful on Eagle or Speedwell Islands, and on several other Tussock islands; in these spots of land they thrive and increase prodigiously. Some big with young have been put on several other islands, well calculated for them, where there can be no doubt they will also prosper. The Tussock grass seems formed by nature for them, being capital food, and affording excellent shelter, warm, dry, and comfortable.

Goats are also to be found on one or two of the islands near West Falkland; they also have increased amazingly, the original stock having been landed a few years ago by a whaler.

Immense warrens of rabbits are to be found in several places, most, however, to the northward of the range of hills, as the original stock was landed at Port Louis by De Bourgainville, and in a wild state they did not succeed in crossing the

hills ; several small colonies of these animals are now, however, rapidly increasing to the southward, landed by Mr. Melville's vessels and by others.

The first in the list of birds is the swan ; they are not found in great plenty, but are very beautiful birds, the whole neck being a jetty black, and the rest of the body of a snowy white. The goose is also a very handsome bird, remarkably bold or stupid. I have killed several with a stick ; they are found in immense numbers all over the islands. There are three kinds, the Upland and Brent, being very good eating, and the Kelp, so called from breeding and feeding close to the shores, were kelp is abundant. The plumage of the hen is most beautiful, not resembling the common wild goose. A setting hen of that breed once struck me a severe blow, whilst trying to push her off her nest.

The immense quantities of eggs of these, and various other birds that may be collected in the season, is truly extraordinary. I have sometimes been obliged to pick my way, to prevent crushing them with my feet. A variety of ducks are to be found in all parts in the greatest abundance. I have myself killed eight or nine different species of them ; the teal, however, is most delicate. Snipes also are found in great plenty ; both the gigantic and full snipe, some of which we killed weighing a pound. Plover, dot-trell, oyster catchers, and a great variety of the

gull tribe, of various and diversified plumage, are plentiful. The birds of prey are both numerous and voracious, particularly the carancho, which has much the resemblance in body to a large English crow, with the beak and talons of an eagle. I have frequently had my game, such as snipe, teal, &c., stolen from me by these cunning birds, after shooting them. One rascal stole my lucifer match-box, whilst I was blowing up a newly-lighted fire, and quietly perched within a hundred yards picking it to pieces. A better exemplification of their cunning cannot be given than the following instance, which I myself observed : a stupid upland goose was quietly sitting on her nest, surrounded by several of this reprobate crew, one of them hovering close over her, and the rest picking and teasing her ; at length, her patience being exhausted, she rushed off her nest at the most daring. Another, however, immediately dropped into her nest, and seized an egg in his talons, and flew off, accompanied by his confederate, whom he allowed to share in the plunder.

We were always accompanied on our shooting excursions by several of these birds. They would sometimes, when pressed with hunger, hover over our heads, within two feet, and absolutely try to settle on the dogs' backs. I have frequently impaled them with a boarding pike.

The penguin lives principally on the Tussock

islands, where he burrows. I perfectly remember the impression made on me, one calm night, when at anchor between two of these islands in Choisuel Sound, by the extraordinary noise made by the braying of some hundred thousand of these animals. It is incredible the noise they made, which, when softened by distance, was very pleasing. I hardly like to state, but it really was the case, that although a quarter of a mile from the shore, we could not converse without raising our voice. Darwin states at page 257, "This bird is commonly called the Jackal Penguin, from its habit, when on shore, of throwing its head backwards, and making a loud strange noise, very like the braying of that animal; but whilst at sea and undisturbed, its note is very deep and solemn, and is often heard in the day-time. In diving, its little plumeless wings are used as fins, but on the land as front legs. When crawling (it may be said on four legs) through the tussock, or on the side of a grassy cliff, it moved so very quickly that it might readily have been mistaken for a quadruped. When at sea and fishing, it comes to the surface for the purpose of breathing with such a spring, and dives again so instantaneously, that I defy any one, at first sight, to be sure that it is not a fish leaping for sport."

These, with shags, curlews, some beautiful varieties of the dove, and a few land species, are the principal birds of the Falklands.

As it may give some idea of the enormous quantity of birds of every kind that are found here, I affix to this a list of the various birds and animals killed. It must, however, be taken into consideration that only two other persons besides Mr. Sullivan and myself were sportsmen ; that we rarely, if ever, went out of our way to get a shot ; that we never fired at wild ducks, except when returning on board we wished to discharge our guns ; and that most frequently we were obliged to keep our guns loaded with ball, as a necessary precaution against the wild bulls, &c. ; if such had not been the case, and our duty would have permitted, I sincerely believe we might have killed twenty times the quantity.

Wild Geese.	Wild Duck.	Teale.	Snipe.	Rabbits.	Fox Wolves.	Wild Cattle.	Wild Boar.	Wild Horse.	Swans.
405	68	531	578	194	6	44	2	1	5

These were, *bond fide, bagged*. There were, beside the birds and animals enumerated above, great numbers of plovers, dotterell, oyster catchers, and several species of gulls, including albatross, sea cape hens, &c. &c. &c., too numerous to mention.

Advancing to the southward of Port Pleasant

the land improves much ; it is almost entirely free from swamp or bog, and undulates very pleasingly —what pity it is not wooded—the undulations are very gentle, so much so that at the distance of seven miles inland, our mast-head was visible, which, if my memory serves me right, was ninety-eight feet from the water.

I have heard it questioned whether corn would ripen—not having any experience on that point, I shall abstain from any opinion, but relate circumstances *pro* and *con*, that I think most important for the growth of that necessary article of food, to give some idea so that a professed agriculturalist may have some data on which to form an opinion. *Imprimis*, I refer to the table of climate at page 75 for temperature and weather; I think I may also safely say that the sun shines at least as many, if not more hours, there than in England. In the hollows which were sheltered from the wind, I have felt much oppressed by its power. What I conceive to be the greatest drawback to any large production of corn, is that the best land (*i. e.* that lying to the southward) is so nearly level that the numerous and violent gales sweep over it with great fury. This I think can be the only cause for the doubt I have heard expressed, of corn not coming to maturity. Captain Fitz-Roy states, upon Brisbane's authority, that wheat has been produced at Port Louis which ripened well ; it was, however, protected by a high embankment. Potatoes, turnips, carrots,

onions, in short, every vegetable that has been tried, has completely succeeded, although most certainly not planted in as favourable a soil as might have been procured.

Fresh-water lakes are scattered about all over the country, which are the favourite resort of myriads of wild fowl, and in which, in a warm day (with a spy-glass), I have seen large herds of cattle standing, just like the tame animals in England. The grass with which the surface of the whole country is covered is coarse and long, but of remarkably sweet taste, and quite brown, which gives the appearance at a distance of a parched up barren plain, whilst the reverse is the case, as the grass is very succulent, and remained so until our departure at the latter end of their summer. In crossing this part of the country numerous little streamlets are found, in which, with the coarsest wire hooks manufactured by ourselves, we have caught great quantities of a small kind of trout, but of a much darker colour than the English fish.

It was in this vicinity that I had a desperate battle with a wild bull; as it may be interesting, I relate the account, as taken out of my diary, written the same day.

Having a great ambition to vanquish one of these magnificent brutes with my own unassisted arm, on the morning of the 24th of October, having carefully armed myself with my usual implements of bull destruction, *viz.* a large-bore

rifle, carrying eighteen to the pound, a long and keenly-sharp hunting knife in my belt, with a man, carrying my double-barrelled gun close behind me, each barrel carrying an ounce ball—thus armed, I considered myself a match for any single wild animal in the world; and after a hearty breakfast of wild cow-beef, at half-past eight A.M. started on my expedition. On landing at the head of Pleasant Roads, with my man and La Porte (the dog), we marched along a line of lakes, which led us towards the head of Pleasant Harbour. Numerous herds were seen, but as my object was to get a crack at a single bull, we rather avoided them. Once we had to drop our guns, and take refuge in the water, in consequence of six bulls charging at us between two lakes. At length, seeing no chance of a fair battle, and it having come on to drizzle, I reluctantly wrapped up the locks of my double gun with a handkerchief, and slowly began my return to the vessel in one of the beaten tracks which are formed all over the island by the cattle. This track led me along the side of a hill, about twenty yards from a deep lake; the whole side of the hill, with the exception of the path, being covered with long brown grass. I was lounging quietly along, my rifle slung over my shoulder, when a grunt from La Porte roused me, and with mixed feelings of fright and delight I beheld about one hundred yards a-head of me an

enormous bull majestically uprising ; for a few seconds he remained still, writhing his tail, and then, as if having made up his mind, with a deafening roar came right at me.

To start La Porte at him, unsling my rifle, and call my man as a steadyng post, was quicker done than said. I was just levelling my trusty rifle as brave La Porte met the bull half-way, and with a shout of defiance flew at his nose ; he was too cunning, however, to be thus caught, for catching poor La Porte with his horns he sent him several feet up in the air. This sight so alarmed my man that, stepping back, he knocked my rifle barrel up ; my finger was on the air trigger, and off it went ; he then dropped my double gun, and run away. To curse him deeply, and change guns, were done instantly, when to my horror I found that in his fright he had not taken off the handkerchief I had tied on before.

In despair I tugged and tore at it, and the last turn was just off—but I saw it was too late—he was within five yards, and at a horse's speed. Summoning all my energies, as his huge horns were within four feet of my body, I sprung on one side. He was going too fast to turn ; his right horn grazed my breast, but without stopping ; with a disappointed bellow, he made at my recreant man, who, stupified with fright, had fallen on his knees about fifteen yards on. The brute had lowered his horns, and was in the act of tossing him,—at that moment I brought my

right barrel to bear; the ounce of lead acted well, it passed through the centre of his heart. His powers were paralyzed as if by magic; the impetus of his speed rolled him over and over, like a rabbit shot at speed, until his huge carcase rested on the brink of the lake, perfectly dead. In truth, he was an enormous beast; he weighed fourteen hundred-weight. This was the first and last time this man went with me bull-hunting.

A great variety of small plants are intermixed with the grass, the principal of which are as follows:—a species of tea plant, which is found scattered over all the islands; the people at Port Louis use it not only from economy, but preference. Capt. Fitz-Roy states in his work, “That he found it so good as to deceive some of his officers into the idea that it was some of his own, procured from Rio de Janeiro, of the best quality.”

M. Freycinet, commanding the French corvette ‘Urania,’ was wrecked off Berkeley Sound in 1820, and gives the following account:—“Several gramineous plants shoot up through the turf, formed by an accumulation of plants, in ponds of fresh water, rendering it unfit for the growth of the larger plants which had been brought here from Cape Horn and the coast of Patagonia. We have found, here and there, strawberries of a delicious flavour; but there is one delightful fruit scattered rather plentifully over this island, it is about the size of a

cherry-stone, grown on a species of grass, is slightly coloured, and gives out a pleasant smell. Our purser, always on the watch for whatever might be useful to the crew, endeavoured to make wine of it, and he fortunately succeeded. The stalks and leaves of the plant make an agreeable tea, which we should have enjoyed very much if we had had sugar.”*

There is also a small shrub, or rather creeper, called by the inhabitants ‘Diddledee,’ for what reason I know not, of the most inflammable nature; it will burn furiously, and with an intense heat, even after being soaked for some time in water; this is found every where, and was very useful to us in preparing our meals when away from the vessel. Having been detained surveying up Choiseul Sound longer than we anticipated, and our fuel getting short, we were obliged to depend on this plant entirely for that purpose; and for several days used nothing else, until we arrived at the mouth of the Sound, where drift timber was abundant. It, however, answered admirably for us, being fitted with that very eligible contrivance for a small vessel, Fraser’s patent stove. There is also another kind of shrub that grows in most of the deep valleys, called there Thashire bushes; they grow to the height of about five feet, the

* I cannot agree with M. Freycinet about the fruit being delightful, and as for making wine of it, I had much rather he should drink it than myself.

largest being about an inch in diameter. Scurvy grass is plentiful: also wild celery.

On some of the points, and most of the islands, grows the tussock, a species of large flag; the leaves extend to a great height from the ground, sometimes nearly to ten feet. It is always a great resort of seals, sea-lions, penguins, &c., and forms a kind of preserve for them: these, by constantly passing and repassing, form complete little, shady lanes, in which we were all very fond of poking about, amusing ourselves by pulling penguins out of their holes, with a loop, made fast to a seal-club or stick, until we were put to flight one day by a huge sea-lion, and half frightened to death by the huge beast lolling by us, with a most hideous roar between a grunt, roar, and snort. We never attempted to explore them again, until we had first had them well hunted by our dogs.

The following extract from my sporting diary will give a good idea of the kind of sport to be met with:—

After dinner we made up a party to hunt sea-lions and elephants. Nine of us, with our two brave and sagacious dogs (La Porte and Brigand), who were well trained to the sport, landed on a small tussock island within one hundred and fifty yards of the vessel's stern; two of us armed with guns, the rest seal-clubs and boarding-pikes; it was very exciting work, although with such ignoble game. Having each chosen our positions in diffe-

rent parts of the beach, we cheered the dogs into the tussock ; very soon by their tongues they gave us warning something was afoot, and immediately a violent commotion of the flags took place, accompanied by the above-mentioned combination of noises—a more hideous din never was heard. We all immediately rallied at the spot denoted by the agitation of the flags, and out lollopped an enormous sea-lion, with our two brave doggies furiously charging his rear. As we had cut off his retreat by being between him and the water, he paused for a moment, and then with his diabolical note, charged right at us. Not having a secure footing on the kelp-covered rocks, from the effects of a sprained ankle, I gave him my rifle-ball, within twelve yards (which severely wounded him) and fairly run away ; getting a little higher up the beach, at his back, where as I was re-loading, I had the advantage, being on a rising ground, of safely and comfortably surveying the battle, which was raging furiously.

Our little party bravely stood their ground ; the pikemen receiving him on their pikes, two of which he snapped short off directly with his huge mouth, leaving the points buried in his carcase. The club men now assailed him with such a shower of blows as was perfectly marvellous, but, being all so eager to strike the nose, they rather diminished the effect, by jostling one another. One well-aimed club he dexterously caught in his cavern-

like jaws, and wrenched it out of his adversary's hand, who overbalanced himself and laid sprawling on the slippery kelp. The monster immediately made at him with open mouth, and would have bitten him in two, had not the dogs been well up to their business; they immediately sprung on his behind, and made their teeth meet therein; this caused him to rear on end, trying to fall back and crush them; they were, however, too nimble, and got clear. This diversion saved the sprawler, who joined me much crest-fallen. After several more onsets, in which he became visibly weaker from the effects of the first bullet, a brave fellow, a quarter-master, who distinguished himself much in our bull hunts, waited his charge till the bayonet of his musket was positively in the brute's mouth, and blew his brains out. It was extraordinary the quantity of blood that flowed from him in little fountains; his smell was most disgusting. He was thirteen feet long, and must have been nine or ten feet in girth, behind the head. Mr. Sullivan, however, killed some even larger than this monster; he tried to preserve pieces of their manes for mats, but was obliged to destroy them, in consequence of the offensive smell. In a calm evening the roaring of these lions may be heard at a considerable distance, which to a person unaccustomed to, or unacquainted with it, is most alarming. I well remember the first sea-lion I ever saw was in turning a

corner of a tussock island ; I was within ten yards before I perceived him ; he merely raised his huge head and gave me a roar, which was sufficiently terrifying to frighten any one for the moment who did not expect it.

The Fishery.

The fisheries may here be followed up to great advantage, both for seal, whale, and sea-elephant. The Volunteer Rocks, off the mouth of Berkeley Sound, are always covered with the fur seal ; also the South Sea Rocks, a little to the southward, which are far superior in point of numbers and extent to the small island of Lobus, in the Rio de la Plata, for which is paid (as rental) the sum of eighty thousand dollars per annum, and is found very successful. There are also several rocks of this nature all round the Falklands. The best proof I can give of the goodness of this fishery is, that Mr. Melville, late a seaman in her Majesty's navy, has, by dint of skill and industry in that fishery, made money sufficient to procure two schooners, with which he is now carrying on a most profitable trade. There is no doubt that if this fishery was properly protected, it would become much more productive ; but several sealing vessels, particularly Americans, make a point of killing, not only the full grown and legitimate game, but destroy a future chance by also sacrificing the pups. They were also in the habit of

burning them out of the tussock islands, thereby destroying the preserves. All these depredations are now in a fair way of being stopped, as Lieut. Lowcay, the governor, is warning off all foreign vessels. Whales are abundant, particularly sperm whales, in the neighbourhood of the main land. The whalers frequently call for fresh beef, which proves there must be a profitable ground near. On one occasion, nearly at the head of Choiseul Sound, I discovered a huge iron pot, for the purpose of boiling blubber, with traces of much work. Melville also informed me he had met with several more in his wanderings round the islands. Large rookeries (as they are termed) of the hair-seal, abound ; I counted four hundred and fifty in one small spot, at the mouth of Harriet Harbour. They let me approach within one hundred yards, in a small boat, several of whom I shot.

Captain Fitz-Roy, in his valuable work, states, that whales frequent the surrounding waters, at certain seasons, although not so numerous as formerly ; also that he was informed by Mr. Vernet that there were great abundance of fish, a kind of boss, in all the bays and creeks, where they come at the beginning of spring to spawn. In the winter they retire. These are caught in such numbers that ten or twelve men salted sixty tons in less than a month ; they are of a species between the mullet and the salmon, and are very good

eating; when salted, some prefer them to the cod-fish.—Vernet, MS., 1831. “It may here be remarked,” says Captain Fitz-Roy, “that the cod-fishery off the coast of Patagonia and Terra del Fuego might be turned to good account by settlers at the Falklands.”

Frequently with one haul of the line we have caught sufficient to last our ship’s company of forty men for several days; when partially salted, they were delicious. A species of smelt is also caught in small quantities, mixed with the boss; they are of the gigantic race of that fish, however, as some were eighteen inches long, and once I found one that measured fairly twenty-two. Why should not Southern America, which is chiefly inhabited by Catholics, be supplied with fish from this neighbourhood, rather than by the long and tedious voyage from Newfoundland and North America? Various shell fish, such as clams, muscles, limpets, &c. &c., are plentiful.

Darwin states at pp. 258-9 of his interesting work, “I will only mention one class of facts relating to certain zoophytes in the more highly organized division of that class. Several genera (*flustra*, *eschara*, *cellaria*, *crisia*, and others) agree in having singular moveable organs, like those of *flustra avicularia* (found in the European seas) attached to the cells: the organ in the greater number of cases closely resembles the head of a vulture; but the lower mandible can be opened

much wider, so as to form even a straight line with the upper: the head itself possesses considerable powers of movement, by means of a short neck. In one zoophyte the head itself was fixed, but the lower jaw free; in another it was replaced by a triangular hood, with a beautifully-fitted trap door, which evidently answered to the lower mandible. A species of stony eschara had a structure somewhat similar: in the greater number of species each shell was provided with one head, but in others each had two."

De Bourgainville, the celebrated French circumnavigator, was the first to form a settlement on these islands, which he did with great judgment at Port Louis, Berkeley Sound. He sailed from St. Maloes, in 1763, with two vessels, and soon formed a settlement that was thriving well, when his men were expelled by the jealous interference of Spain. To him, however, is due the credit of landing the original stock of horses, cattle, and rabbits. The remains of the chapel that he then built are now converted into a house for the governor of the islands. He called them Malouine's Islands.

Commodore Byron was the next visitor, on his way to the South Seas. So fully was he impressed with their capabilities, that by his recommendation was sent out, in 1776, Capt. M'Bride, in command of an expedition for the purpose of colonization: great pains were taken, and several thou-

sand young trees were transported with the earth round their roots from the adjacent coast off the main land, and Port Tosnine, to be reset at Port Egmont, which Capt. M'Bride had erroneously chosen for the seat of the new settlement. These were all destroyed, and the English dispossessed, by the Spanish Admiral Madarigo, in 1770, when in a flourishing state ; and, although the Spanish government refused to acknowledge the act of their officer, and formally ceded these islands to Great Britain, it is said, however, in the celebrated controversy between Dr. Johnson and Junius, that there was a secret article which provided that England should quietly withdraw the remnants of her colony as soon as possible, thus satisfying the national honour of the English nation by having the islands ceded to them, with the secret proviso of their immediate abandonment.

Recapitulation.

In a general point of view, I should think that Port Louis Berkeley Sound would be the most desirable spot for the seat of government, for the following reasons : It is much the easiest and best port to make ; there is good and safe anchorage for vessels of all sizes, and it is the only port so clear and free from danger in entering, that a strange vessel might enter with perfect safety, without a previous knowledge of the harbour.

Although there is less good land to the north-

ward of Berkeley Sound than perhaps in any other part of the island, still there is amply sufficient for a port of supply.

The next best place for a head-quarters is Port San Carlos, or Fanning's Harbour; this is perhaps the finest harbour in the island, but, from its situation, difficult to make: so much so, I think, as to prevent any ships merely wanting refreshments calling there. Here there is a fresh water river; the land is generally good, and immense herds of wild cattle. The same applies to all the harbours to the southward, although nothing can be safer for vessels having a knowledge of the navigation.

There is, however, one drawback in cattle grazing at Port Louis; in consequence of the boggy-ness of the ground, the expense of looking after them will be much increased, particularly in horse-flesh. The present way of procuring an addition of cattle is by sending the gauchos over Wickham Heights, to the neighbourhood of Mount Pleasant, catching the wild ones there, and driving them back the same way: this is only accomplished by a fearful waste of life, both in horses and cattle, numbers of both dying by the way; neither is it to be wondered at, as these hills are from 8,000 to 1,200 feet high, and principally bog.

The following account of one of their expeditions which I had from an officer of the ' Sparrow,' who accompanied them, will show the great sacrifice of cattle and horses by this method of pro-

ceeding, which might be wholly obviated, by having the means of sending them round from Port Pleasant by water, the distance being about thirty-five miles, the average passage six hours.

“ The vessel being at Port Pleasant, and the corral complete, we allowed one day's rest; and preparation for the gauchos and their horses, having only just arrived from the settlement. The next morning at daylight, with our tropilla of horses in company, and two tame oxen, we started off; our party consisted of the capatoz,* two gauchos, myself, and three others as assistants, to lash the cattle's hind legs when thrown by the lasso. We soon perceived a herd, which we approached as quietly as possible; as soon as we had arrived sufficiently close, the capatoz, with a gaucho on each side, galloped into the centre of the herd, with the lasso swinging; in a moment three were fast, the rest galloping madly off. After a little manœuvring they were thrown, and their hind legs firmly lashed with a hide thong, the lasso disengaged, and off again at full speed. This we continued to do until the body of the herd was quite dispersed, and fourteen left securely lashed; this chase carried us over about seven miles of ground, which was left strewed with the bellowing brutes. After some rest we attacked another herd in the same way, of which eleven were secured, and wound up our day's work by capturing

* Captain of gauchos.

eight out of another. The whole distance gone must have been upwards of twenty miles, of course the gauchos changing horses repeatedly. We then killed a fine cow for supper, from a piece of which, in the shape of *carne con quero*, we supped heartily ; and being tired with our gallop, after finishing our pipes, just as the sun was setting, crept under our tarpaulin, and recollected nothing until roused by the capatoz at daylight next morning. After a delicate and hasty breakfast of half raw beef, from the cow of last night, we commenced retracing our steps, to collect our game of yesterday. On coming up to the nearest, or last caught one, the capatoz dismounted, cut off his tail (a fine three-year old bull), then produced a little saw and sawed off his horns ; he then took the ring end of the lasso and belaboured the poor brute. I thought he would have been killed, crying out all the time, 'beulter tauro,' (turn bull) 'beulter,' and 'entrongs,' (enter). After this ceremony, we formed a ring, our horses' heads towards him, the capatoz making a slip hitch of his lasso, vaulted on his horse's back and freed the bull. The bull shook himself, roaring with rage, stared round him for a moment, and charged the nearest horse. He appeared well up to it, however, for he remained perfectly quiet, with his ears back, until the bull was quite close to his heels, when, lifting them with remarkable dexterity, he upset the bull in a crack. The poor beast tried

this on with several of us, with the same success ; and, as a last resource, ran and took shelter with the tame oxen. We then formed round them, the capatoz leading the way, and repeated the same ceremony to all. They seemed after this treatment to be completely cowed, and rarely attempted to break away. Some were so cramped by thus lying so long in one position, as to render it necessary to kill them ; some would be obstinate, and refuse to rise, even after their ears and tail had been horribly mangled ; and one bull submitted to the most cruel torture without moving ; the gaucho, in a rage, plunged his knife into his heart. Of the thirty-three lashed the day before, not twenty reached the corral. Several of the horses were also disabled, and two killed outright."

For several days they were employed in this manner catching great numbers, sixty-five of which were landed on the West Falkland. I happened, about a week after, to be standing at the corral at the settlement, when the remaining part of the captured animals were driven in. I counted only twenty-five, and in such a state they could barely stand ; numbers were left in the mountain passes, not having strength to get through the bog. I should think, for every animal driven round alive to the settlement, three were sacrificed. This cruel system ought certainly to be amended.

The land between Port Pleasant and More

Harbour is particularly good, and tracks of land are easily cut off, with very little art, as the creeks and harbours form various little peninsulas, of different sizes, from two hundred to several thousand acres; this part, in consequence, would be a very desirable spot for settlers, both from its vicinity to the settlement, and the goodness of the land.

The first and greatest want of the settlers would be timber, and wood of various sorts; a small quantity of drift timber is to be procured on the coast; also from one or two old wrecks; but the principal supply must depend upon the main land. There it is to be procured in perfection, of every sort. The natives, generally retire to the northward during the winter, which would have nearly a desert to operate upon; although, from their known manners and customs, there would be no obstacle made by them. The only question would be, what would the Government laying claim to this extremity of South America say to it?

The average passage to the main land is about seven days, although the distance is not above three hundred and fifty miles. This is accounted for by the prevalence of west and south-west winds. The return passage rarely would take more than from two to three days and a-half days. During our stay at the Falklands, the 'Sparrow' went across for the purpose of trying to procure horses; but as I afterwards heard from

my friend Mr. Seccombe, the officer in command of her, without success; the Indian tribe he met there being a miserable set, with hardly sufficient for their own wants. Where to procure a good supply of fresh young horses would be a thing of very great importance for settlers to think of. Certainly the best and nearest would be Moldonado, or Monte Video, in the Rio de la Plata, in either of which places they are to be procured in any quantities, and at a cheap rate, from eighteen to thirty shillings a-piece.

It must seem rather extraordinary to have to send horses to an island abounding with them in a wild state. The following are the reasons. The wild ones live solely on the northern or boggy region of the east island, they, unencumbered with a rider, skim over ground, from being cow-hocked, in which a horse carrying a man's weight sinks deep. This, together with the great neglect of breed they have suffered for some years, would make an importation necessary, at least for the first year or two.

The following affray took place in an endeavour to procure some mess beef. Came too, and whilst mooring observed a fine herd of cattle grazing on a peninsula called "Bincon del Toro," or the Bull-ring. Eight of us, including Mr. Sullivan, commander, his brother, and myself, immediately started in chase. We pulled in our boat up to the first isthmus, but just in time to see the rear-guard of bulls tearing over. As we

knew of another pass two miles inland, the whole party moved silently along to cut them off; as, luckily, we crossed their tracks and got the wind of them, by taking advantage of the ground we arrived there before them. A few minutes afterwards their vanguard, consisting of ten or twelve bulls, came trotting up; but seeing our bold front, they made a full stop, bellowing loudly, and tearing up the ground with their horns; immediately after up came the main body, consisting, as well as we could see (it being now nearly dark) of about fifty cows, heifers, and calves. With a loud cheer, in a line, we advanced. The cows and calves took the alarm, and fled back towards the first isthmus; the bulls gave ground by little and little, and, on our quickening our charge, turned tail and followed the cows. It was then "the devil take the hindmost," and who should have the honour of putting the first ball in our Christmas dinner; every one, therefore, put his best foot foremost. The excitement was tremendous; we could plainly hear the bellowing and roaring of the infuriated brutes. We gained the top of an eminence with an abrupt fall,—over it at speed. It was deeper than I expected; my right foot lodged on the side of a stone, which turned me quite over, sprained my ankle dreadfully, and my head coming in contact with a stone, spread me out for a few minutes perfectly insensible. I shall now proceed with the other party, who, not per-

ceiving my accident, except the last person who fell over me, and remained as a protection, thinking I was much hurt. On they went with unabated speed, our commander leading the van. La Porte (the dog) suddenly seized a fine calf by the nose, which encumbered him so as to enable Mr. Sulivan to catch him round the neck ; the strong little beast, however, dragged them both away so quick, as to make it a matter of some difficulty for a man to come up behind and hamstring, and thus secure it. A fine cow, I suppose the mamma of this calf, became perfectly infuriated by the bleatings of its innocent, and charged about like a mad thing ; three shots struck her, beside two balls from Mr. Sulivan's gun, who, thinking she must be done, drew his double-barrelled pistol, and gave her the right-hand barrel ; the moment she felt the smart of the bullet, she threw off the dog and charged him furiously ; when within five yards, he discharged the other barrel into her head, and, as we afterwards found, the ball had entered between her eyes—a cool and good shot, in such a predicament. This, however, availed him not, or affected the furious beast a jot, as she knocked his gun out of his hand, and, most providentially, her forehead struck him a tremendous blow on the chest (her horns being on each side of his body), tore the ground up on each side, and then passed on, her hind hoofs trampling on his body. She turned, and was coming up again,

when his brother, in the strength of fraternal affection, marched deliberately up, put his musket within a foot of her body, and blew her heart to pieces. Mr. Sulivan was very severely shaken by the blow he got, and his hands were much cut.

In the meantime, after a few minutes of insensibility from the blow I received, I came to, and attempted to rise, but fell over again in agony as my foot touched the ground. Just at this moment we saw the flashes, and heard the shouts of the above related battle ; this was not to be borne, so, slinging my rifle, and putting my arms round my companion's neck, by dint of hopping, we approached the battle-ground as fast as possible in this state. We had not proceeded far before we were stopped by a most diabolical outcry, and, to our inexpressible fright, found that the body of the herd had turned, and were coming upon us screaming and galloping like mad. It was too late to run, even had I been able, so down we lay, taking the chance of being run over, rather than be gored to death ; the noise increased with the rapidity of their approach ; I never was in such a fright in all my life : on they came, all mixed together, plunging and bellowing, passing, like a whirlwind, within ten feet of our concealment. Human nature could not stand this ; as if with one accord, my companion's musket and my rifle sent their contents into the centre of them, but without any visible effect. We were joined soon after by Mr. Sulivan

and his party, who was able to walk home, although much shaken. Not so with me ; I was carried home on the men's shoulders with as much care and attention as a sick lady. On getting back to our boat, we found a formidable division of small-arm men just landed, to look for us, it being nearly midnight.

With proper and economical arrangement, immense quantities of beef might be cured, not only to supply our squadron in South America, but the whole British fleet, and this without any diminution of cattle. But to do this, cows must not be killed in calf, or heifers half grown ; in short, there must be trustworthy and intelligent men, who have some interest in their welfare, to overlook and keep a check on the gauchos, whose ignorance, prejudice, and brutality are proverbial.

Hides and tallow also might become a valuable article of traffic ; the hides are of a much finer quality and twice the weight of those from the Pampas ; there were, when I left Port Louis, upwards of eight hundred of as fine hides as can be produced any where, lying rotting in a damp store.

Whale and elephant oil would also become one of the staple products, and from the nurseries of fur seal that abound in the neighbourhood great profit might be made, if properly and systematically followed up, particularly as the fur seal in South America is every year becoming scarcer,

from the wanton and indiscriminate destruction of old and young.

Surely some advantage might also be made from the immense beds of kelp that surround every part of these islands ; it would cost little trouble or expense in procuring it in any quantity.

From the erroneous impressions general throughout the merchant service of this country, of the boisterous and dangerous nature of any approach to these islands, it is a rare thing for any merchant vessel to touch there, but when it is generally known that good and safe harbours are to be found, that provisions and various supplies are to be procured in abundance, when the truth shall shine out through the clouds of absurd fear and old fashioned prejudices, then will they be too glad, after the rough and stormy passage round Cape Horn, to rest awhile, and refresh themselves in the secure havens of their ancient bugbear.

A small naval dépôt would be of great and essential advantage to our navy, both government and mercantile, as our nearest naval station is many thousand miles distant ; we are, therefore, dependant for supplies in that quarter of the globe on foreign nations, who, if they from policy dare not refuse us, yet charge exorbitantly for every necessary. It could be thus made a half-way-house, and would, no doubt, be used as such whenever vessels are aware that defects can be made good and wants supplied. It would also in

case of war command the whole South American trade—of all nations—the boisterous gales and heavy seas—(I say this with pride for my profession)—of these bleak regions would be even an advantage, from the known skill and nautical knowledge of our naval officers and men, both as to coping with an enemy, or recovering our seamen from the enervating influence of a tropical climate, to which, from their duties in South America, they are so much exposed. The coast of America adjacent to these islands being covered with wood, would afford great facility to steamers for a supply of fuel in any quantity. With four men in one day I cut sufficient peat for a month's consumption; four or five sunny days are sufficient to dry it thoroughly; it is then fit to stack for use.

Capt. Fitz-Roy says, “The want of wood in these islands would be a serious inconvenience, but its deficiency is thus amply supplied, which answers every purpose. It will not, however, answer for a forge in its natural state, but if by a mechanical process it could be pressed hard* for some time

* “Compressed peat fuel.—So long ago as 1836, says the ‘Literary Gazette,’ we called the public attention to the experiments carried on by Lord Willoughby de Eresby, for the compression of peat into a fuel, which should answer all the purposes of coal, in agriculture and manufactories, and become an article of immeasurable importance in vast sterile tracks of country, where the latter prolific source of industry and wealth could not be obtained. In 1837, we noticed the progressive

success

before it was used, it would afford a much greater heat." Weddel, in his voyage, states, " that by working the peat holes alternately, a sufficient quantity can always be procured." Capt. Fitz-Roy, in continuation, says, " that the clay is good for bricks, has been mentioned ; but I have not said that there is stone of two or three kinds suitable for building, and that any quantity of lime may be obtained by burning fossil shells brought over from the coast of Patagonia, where the cliffs are full of them. Another natural production, of more value than it has hitherto been considered, is the common sea-weed, or kelp ; and I am told by Sir Woodbine Parish, that the archil, or orchilla weed, was obtained there by the Spaniards."

Conclusion.

It is rather singular that these islands should, in the middle of the last century, have created so great an interest in the British nation—at that time there was some doubt whether a war with Spain might not be the result.

The circumstances were briefly these :—A small settlement was made by the British on these shores, success which had attended these operations, and in the present year reviewed a statement, published by the noble Lord, in which he detailed the course of his trials, alterations, and improvements, till he had reached the reward of his patriotic labours, by perfecting a machine, and process of compression, fully adequate to the object he had so indefatigably and ingeniously pursued," &c. &c. &c.

and in 1770, in time of peace and amity with Spain, a ship of war belonging to that nation landed a force sufficient to destroy the new attempt at colonization which had been made, and carried off as prisoners the few British whom they found there. The account of this wanton and unprovoked outrage fired the British public, and reparation was demanded from the court of Spain. The sound sense and good feelings of the country prevented any hostilities, but much abuse was poured forth by the political writers on each side of the question in England, one party espousing and defending the act of Spain, the other abusing it to the utmost of their power. Pens were wielded instead of swords, ink flowed in lieu of blood, and words of abuse and vituperation were heard through the land, and took the place of songs of victory. The party writers gave no quarter to their opponents, and rivalled the penny-a-liners of the present hour. Junius entered the lists, and Dr. Johnson met him in the field, the former in favour, the latter against the cause of the Falklands. In his eighty-eighth letter, dated Feb. 12th, 1771, Junius thus expresses himself on the question of the agreement made with Spain after the destruction of the settlement above alluded to: "That stipulation wounds irreparably the glory of the kingdom, when it concedes a principle, and an encouragement to the Catholic king to hope, and most probably, not to say certainly, an express assurance that Port Egmont

and the whole of the islands, now restored to us, shall in due time (as soon as they dare), be surrendered to the Court of Spain.

“ No words can express the meanness and folly of such a proceeding. This insult, accompanied with the indignities contained, by the minister’s own confession, in the convention, will renew to us in the mouth of the proud and triumphant Spaniards the ignominious title of Gallinas del Mar, and we shall deservedly become a bye-word amongst nations. The only reparation which it can be pretended that Spain makes, is the temporary restoration of Port Egmont. Restoring to me my possessions insolently seized is an act of justice, not of reparation. The insult was committed after repeated notices of our right, in full peace ; it was an insult not only to the flag of England, hitherto spotless, but to the whole majesty of the kingdom, by direct hostilities committed, as in time of actual war, so as to enforce a formal capitulation ; a proceeding hitherto unheard-of, submitted to with a meanness and treachery on the part of our rulers which nothing can now palliate. We deceive ourselves if we think the peace can be maintained by pusillanimity and baseness. Remember His Majesty cannot accept, under a convention, that satisfaction to which he has so just a title, without entering into an engagement to procure it.”

To this Dr. S. Johnson wrote an abusive answer,

in a pamphlet, in which he depreciates the importance of the Falklands, and calls Junius a miserable drudge, acting under the orders of a contemptible party headed by Wilkes, Crosby, and Sawbridge. It seems, therefore, that these islands, in the middle of the last century, were not deemed so insignificant as to escape observation, and that they excited much political controversy and considerable diplomatic discussion. At that time, however, their importance was but trifling ; there was no commerce with the Pacific ; no vessels, except those for the promotion of science, or for the purpose of discovery, doubled Cape Horn. The entire of Spanish America was hermetically sealed against British commerce, and no intercourse whatever was allowed to exist between us and the colonies of Spain. Under these circumstances, the value of the Falklands was, indeed, much lessened. In regard to the whale fishery, little could be effected, the distance being so great, and no friendly port being open along the entire line of the coast of South America. These peculiar difficulties rendered the Falkland Islands, at that time a settlement, only calculated for agricultural or hunting purposes, and not in any manner likely to rise into consideration or importance.

Now, however, this is entirely changed ; the importance of the Falklands becomes much greater than it was formerly, when they could be of no other use than serving as a check on Spain,

and a spot whence her vessels going round Cape Horn could be intercepted ; and whatever force was kept there, could only be an expense to Great Britain. The state of things is now quite different. The Falklands, it is true, can be no longer of any use as a thorn in the side of the Spanish possessions in South America, but they can be applied to a nobler and more useful purpose : they can serve as harbours of refuge for vessels sailing round Cape Horn ; as a station from which the whalers and sailing vessels of the South Seas may obtain refreshments and security ; and, moreover, these islands may at the same time become a thriving colony, and prove no despicable addition to the British empire, in a portion of the globe where we possess no other settlement, and which is several thousand miles distant from the nearest British colony. Perhaps one of the greatest benefits conferred on our country by the naval superiority she possesses, (and which I trust and firmly believe will continue for ages to come, notwithstanding the faults found with the service, by those who would find fault with anything not in accordance with their interests), is, after securing her from the attacks of a foreign foe, to enable her to establish flourishing colonies in every quarter of the globe which can be reached by her vessels. The spirit of enterprize and colonization for which we are so remarkable, may have arisen from our supe-

riority at sea, which superiority may also, in its turn, have tended to increase our enterprizing spirit. It is difficult, therefore, for any one not to arrive at the conclusion, that these islands may at no distant period become a flourishing colony. The soil is certainly productive ; it brings out to great perfection all the vegetables that grow in England ; it produces the most succulent and wholesome food for cattle of every description, as appears evident from the herds grazing in thousands, and the wild horses now there. Fuel may be obtained in any quantity merely by digging, and the peat answers for every ordinary purpose, and, as observed by Capt. Fitz-Roy, " if compressed by a mechanical power (a machine for which it appears has been invented, vide note p. 58), might be adapted to the forge, and supply most other purposes to which coal are at present applied."

The climate is most salubrious, as evidently appears from the circumstance mentioned by me, that not a single instance of sickness appeared in the crew of our vessel during our six months' stay on the island. The climate is most congenial to the constitution of an Englishman, not being very different from the climate of his own country, with the exception that it is rather drier, and also that violent gales of wind and squalls are more prevalent. Innumerable creeks and fresh water lakes supply an abundance of fish.

Before I take my leave of this subject I may perhaps be allowed to say something on the advantages arising from the permanent settlement of the Falklands. It is not my wish to be understood that what I am now stating emanates entirely from myself: it is collected from some persons who, having paid more attention to the subject than my professional occupations would allow me to do, have expressed opinions with which I entirely concur. Without entering into the change in public opinion regarding the system of forming colonies, it may be said that since the year 1830 a fresh stimulus has been given to colonization, and the energies and capital of the country have been directed towards the waste lands appertaining to the British empire in various quarters of the globe. In making this remark it may be observed, that even in former times the English were superior to most other colonizations in their foreign settlements. Even in India, what is perceptible? The East-India Company govern one hundred millions of souls with less than fifty thousand British troops. How does this occur? Does this take place from the power of the sword, or from the love the natives bear to the English? From neither of these causes! The power of this country in India, and the stability of her government in Hindoostan, arises from the perfect security of person and property which every individual there enjoys under the mild sway of British do-

minion. It is true this security is paid for at a high rate, and, like the Court of Chancery in England, the Court of Directors of the East-India Company take a good per-centage from the property of all those under their power for securing to them the remainder: however, the natives of India are satisfied, which is not always the case with the suitors in the English Court. How different was the system adopted by other European nations, in their attempts at colonization, more particularly that of Spain: No wonder, therefore, that the Falklands were left a desert. Humboldt, in his "*Essai Politique sur la Nouvelle Espagne*," assigns a reason for the wretched manner in which colonization was carried on by the Council of Castile,* in which body the chief power over the colonies was invested by the Spanish Government. If Spain had ever considered the real interests of

* "It was natural for the Court of Spain to promote by every species of encouragement the navigation and manufactures of the mother country; but it seemed not aware of the heavy taxation imposed on the colonies by subjecting them to the ignorance, laziness, and unskilfulness of Spanish seamen and artificers, nor did it sufficiently consider that Spain was unable to supply from her own manufacturing industry the wants of her colonies; and that this not only injured them but herself, by diverting her capital from objects nearer home, in which it might have been employed to great advantage. Destitute of funds, machinery, and industry, Spain is the last country in Europe entitled to demand from her colonies a monopoly of their trade."—*Humboldt, Essai Politique sur la Nouvelle Espagne*.

Her colonies in the New World, those countries, with their immense capabilities, would be in a very different state than that in which they were when emancipated from the Spanish yoke, and Spain herself would be in a very different position from that in which she was when they threw off the allegiance entertained towards her. Great Britain has acted in a different manner; in promoting the welfare of her offspring she has benefited herself: good offices between nations, as well as between individuals, must be reciprocal. The period, perhaps, may not be far distant when the colonies of Great Britain may become her best customers; this, although it may at first seem improbable and chimerical, may yet be the case when one considers the prodigious strides making on the continent of Europe by nations in augmenting their manufacturing industry, and taking into the account the jealousy with which many governments in Europe guard against the introduction of articles of British manufacture; and as the impression is general throughout the people under their dominion that the great wealth of our country has arisen from the exportation of her manufactures, it is difficult to arrive at any other conclusion than this, that as years roll on the demands on the European continent for British manufactured goods may lessen, and their wants may be supplied from their own industry; in proportion as they increase, which they certainly will do in each succeeding season, the more will the

energies of the old continental states be directed to supplying themselves. Under these circumstances, in what manner can Great Britain find a vent for the vast amount of manufactured articles, which amount is hourly increasing by the improvements in machinery and power of steam? Her chief resource, and her main dependence, must be on her colonies in Europe, Asia, and Africa, and on the intercourse both generated and maintained by those colonies or settlements with the nations in their vicinity. For this purpose, settlements in various quarters of the globe are most essential to our future prosperity. That such is, and has been our policy, can admit of little doubt. We see Heligoland in our possession, commanding the entrance to the Baltic, and serving as a dépôt for our produce, that may, if required, be poured into the Northern States of Europe. Gibraltar, commanding the entrance of the Mediterranean in the vicinity of the Northern ports of Africa, adjoining Spain, and at hand to supply Portugal: Malta, further up in that sea, near Italy, Egypt, and other places; and still further in the Mediterranean the Ionian Islands afford us a *point d'appui* in our commercial, and if required in our naval and military operations. If we extend our view to the South of Africa, we see there the Cape of Good Hope serving as a place of rest, and as a pivot regulating, the intercourse by sea from one hemisphere to another, whence a communication

with all the adjoining countries may easily be obtained. Without dwelling longer on the advantages arising from these several stations already mentioned, let us turn our eyes towards the continent of Australia, now boldly erecting its front, and rising into civilization and importance in a manner hitherto unexampled ! Let us look also at the vast extent of territory, and at the mighty states that line the waters of the Pacific Ocean. What is the intermediate spot between Great Britain and Australia and New Zealand, which forms a half-way house for the trade which is hourly increasing by the intercourse of the two countries, and rising into one of great national consequence ? The Falkland Islands ! Where is the spot which commands the passage round Cape Horn and the Straits of Magellan, and consequently that point which, as the trade with the Pacific increases, arising from a natural course of events which will take place, and which, consequently, must be of great importance to the interests of Britain ? The Falkland Islands ! Taken, therefore, as the pivot of the trade between the great and isolated continent of Australia on the one hand, and of the immense regions washed by the waters of the Pacific on the other, the Falkland Islands will become at no distant period the key to the commerce of those distant shores, and the Gibraltar of the Pacific, and of the Australian seas. Such, in a commercial point of view, may be at some future

though not very distant period, the benefit derivable to Britain from the possession of the Falklands. Now, let us consider their importance in the event of Great Britain being involved in a war, either with the old states of Europe, or of the other hemisphere. In making this supposition, however, it cannot be said that such an event is likely to take place. The test of civilization seems in most countries to confirm the impression, that the mass of the people have a greater influence in preserving peace, or declaring war, than they formerly possessed. When communities are represented in legislative assemblies, and influence in some measure the executive, besides keeping the purse of the nation in their hands, there is little probability of a war taking place, unless some great national danger threatens the country, or some great commercial or political advantage is to be obtained. That game is not popular where both parties who play are sure to lose, with little or no chance of gain to be obtained. Under such circumstances, the probability of war appears more remote than ever. The love of gain, the fear of loss, the increase of expenditure, and the certainty of taxation, may render nations more circumspect in committing hostilities with their neighbours, or with distant people, than was formerly the case. Having said this, though against my interest, and not in accordance with the wishes of my profession, let me

add, that circumstances may yet arise which might bring on a state of warfare; it is under that supposition that I wish to consider the situation of the Islands already described. The very advantages arising from their possession, to the commerce of this country, are nearly equally applicable to them in a state of hostilities. Let us imagine Great Britain at war with any European state, the benefit arising from a station on the Falklands is easily understood.* Few vessels could sail to Australia, New Zealand, or the Pacific, except under the English flag, without risk of capture. The extreme anxiety of the Spaniards, when possessed of South America, the violence they used, the arts and negotiations they employed to wrest

* The climate of these islands may be said to resemble that of Ireland in its mildness, without being so damp; perhaps even it may be more like that of the Western Islands of Scotland, equally mild and more dry, and as healthy: when drained and cultivated the produce must be beyond calculation great, and the hardy peasants of Connaught, or of the Hebrides, might there find, in a climate, congenial to their own, all the benefits of cultivation. One thing is certain: in parts of the British islands the population rather exceeds the means of subsistence; in the Falklands the means of subsistence are ready for thousands, and might be extended for millions. In most countries the settlers have to clear woods, to turn up land, to sow and reap, and a year may elapse before any return from the soil can be obtained; in the Falklands, the wild cattle, and the multiplicity of other animals fit for man's use, are ready at hand, and the means of living (and of living in plenty) are secured to the settlers to the fullest extent.

these islands from us, speak volumes as to their importance, so far as the navigation of the Pacific Ocean is concerned, in those days Australia and New Zealand were scarcely to be traced in the map of the universe. It has already been observed, that as years roll on our colonies may become the great mart for our manufactures, and the first market for our industry. The situation of the Falklands is such, that it may both assist our trade, and check that of other nations, in case of hostilities, even under the supposition (a supposition which I trust may not be realised for ages to come), that our colonies in Australia were desirous of separating themselves from the Mother Country, their vicinity to the Falklands would induce them, even if they had no connection with the Mother Country, to procure what they required, either for luxury or convenience, at a dépôt of British manufactures established so near and so handy for their convenience. If, therefore, we consider this cluster of islands either as pivots for trade, and as a locale to promote commercial enterprize in times of peace, or as stations and dépôts for provisions and convalescence in time of war, or in any other point of view they are considered, they cannot but revive a feeling of that interest in the people of Britain which existed last century. Speaking as an Englishman, I cannot but feel proud and gratified in seeing the flag of my nation —that flag which has for a thousand years braved

the battle and the breeze—wave triumphantly on every commanding point in every quarter of the globe, in every port promoting commerce, freedom of intercourse, civilization, and the freedom and happiness of mankind. Long may this continue ! Perhaps the present century may witness steam-boats plying between the Falklands and the coast of Patagonia and the Straits of Magellan ; the whole of Patagonia may be explored, and the continental population redeemed from that state of barbarism and wretchedness which in other places is fast melting before the warmth of civilization, of christianity, and of individual happiness and national prosperity.

I have already said that my sojourn in the Falklands had induced me to entertain rather a favourable impression of them, and I may, perhaps, inadvertently, and certainly unintentionally, have adopted some prepossession in their favour. I am apprehensive of this being the case, from perusing the account given of the Falklands by most of those by whom they have been described, particularly the French navigators. However, I cannot but feel somewhat confirmed in my favourable impression by the account of Capt. Fitz-Roy and Mr. Darwin. All that I can say further on the subject is, that I have faithfully described whatever came under my observation ; that my anxious desire is, to state everything correctly, and without bias or prejudice, and to crave

indulgence for whatever defects or omissions may be found, and to plead in my justification the constant calls of my profession for the last ten years of my life, which it was my first duty to fulfil.

I have to acknowledge the great assistance I have received from my much respected commander, particularly the table of weather, and observations thereon ; and it may not be irrelevant to the narrative in this place to state, that for upwards of a year that we were together in the 'Arrow,' as commander and first mate, there was not a single instance of the slightest manifestation of angry feeling on his side, and certainly none whatever on mine.

WEATHER TABLE of THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Dates.	Interval.	Days.		Nights.		Days.		Barometer.		Temperature.			
		Days.	Hours	Gales.	Moderate	Gales.	Moderate	Days.	Hours	Mean.	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
1838.										Inches	Inches		
October 16th	to 31st	16	0	5	0	11	0	16	1	4	11	29,92	30,35
November 1st	to 30th	30	4	6	5	15	4	26	1	6	23	29,75	30,36
December 1st	to 31st	31	4	16	4	7	7	24	0	7	24	29,46	29,78
January 1st	to 31st	31	1	15	8	7	3	28	2	9	20	29,53	30,00
February 1st	to 28th	28	2	13	3	10	4	24	0	9	19	29,72	30,22
March 1st	to 12th	12	2	7	1	2	1	11	0	3	9	29,67	29,93

Open temperature, taken at Berkeley Sound.

1838.	Morning.	Noon.	Midnight.
June 22d	86	41	27
23d	30	40	37
24th	43	45	34
25th	37	41	33
26th	37	39	31
27th	38	37	33
28th	37	39	37
	7)253	7)282	7)292
Mean temperature ...	36	40	38

Shade temperature, taken at Berkeley Sound.

1839.	Morning.	Noon.	Midnight.
January 22d	54	57	48
23d	54	58	51
24th	54	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	47
25th	56	62	55
26th	59	74	56
27th	56	62	54
28th	55	67	55
	7)388	7)440	7)366
Mean temperature ...	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	63	52 $\frac{1}{2}$

The ' storm ' column shows the number of days on which the gales were very heavy, but they seldom continued at their height more than a few hours. The gale column shows the number of days on which, at some period during the twenty-four hours, the force of the wind was registered as high as or higher than 7. The number in Capt. Beaufort's table denoting ' a moderate gale,'—on some of these days the gale did not last more than two

or three hours. The same remark applies to the days in the 'strong breeze' column, which are those wherein the highest number registered as the force of the wind was 6; all other days are called moderate, and some of them were calm. The 'night gale' column shows the number of gales that did not, as usual, moderate at dark and spring up again at daylight or sunrise, but continued through the night; these were generally the heaviest gales; many of the nights included in the 'moderate' column were perfectly calm.

The 'rainy' column shows the number of days on which it rained the greater part of the day, as it never rained for a whole day during the five months. The 'showery' column shows the days on which there were frequent showers of rain or hail, some of which were very heavy. On some of those days marked 'fine,' there were occasionally slight showers, but they were not sufficient to prevent us calling them fine days.

The barometer and thermometer were registered every four hours.

The Falkland Islands, nearly ninety in number, lie between the latitude of 51° and $52^{\circ} 45'$ south, longitude $57^{\circ} 20'$ and $61^{\circ} 40'$ west. The two largest, of considerable extent, are called East and West Falkland. The eastern island is the larger; being about one hundred and thirty miles

long, eighty miles at its greatest breadth, and narrowing to about thirty-five miles at the southern point. The western island is about one hundred miles in length, and fifty in width. Between these two islands the channel is from seven to twelve miles across, and many of the smaller islands are situated in this channel. It is navigable for ships of any size. The various harbours are particularly good, being mostly formed by bays, well sheltered. The geographical position of the islands, and their proximity to Cape Horn, render them the fittest place for vessels to touch at, bound to and from the Pacific Ocean.

The climate is constantly temperate, as is stated in various works of authority; and which is evidenced by the quantities of wild horned cattle, hogs, horses, rabbits, which are to be found on the East Falkland during the summer and winter, in good fat condition.

In summer the thermometer seldom rises above 70° , although it has been at 80° . In winter it rarely falls below 30° , although it has been so low as 20° , but in only two or three temporary instances. The weekly average at midnight, during the three winter months, *viz.* June, July, and August, of 1838, and 1838 being mostly above the freezing point of 32° , and the lowest 24° from the 10th to the 16th August 1838.

The frost is never so strong as to freeze the

water sufficiently to bear any weight. The snow rarely lies more than two days on the ground, and then only a few inches in depth.

The climate throughout the year is far more equable, and the nights much lighter and milder, than in England. In London the thermometer, in 1838, fell in October to 26°, in November to 22°, in December to 16°, and in January 1839, to 10°, whilst at Berkley Sound, in 1838, the lowest point at midnight, of the four corresponding months, was in April 29°, May 25°, June 24°, July 25°.

THE END.

67216?

BY COMMAND OF HER MAJESTY.

THE LIFE
OF
FIELD MARSHAL HIS GRACE
THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON,
K.G. G.C.B. G.C.H. &c. &c. &c.

BY W. H. MAXWELL,
AUTHOR OF "STORIES OF WATERLOO," "THE BIVOUAC," "VICTORIES OF
THE BRITISH ARMY," &c.

Now publishing in Parts, elegantly printed in demy 8vo. price 5s.; and royal 8vo. with Proof Impressions of the Plates on India Paper, price 7s. 6d. each Part, one of which appears on the first of every alternate month, beautifully embellished by two or more highly-finished Line Engravings on Steel, from Pictures by the most eminent living and deceased Artists, and many well-executed Wood Engravings.

The whole Work will be completed in Twelve Parts, forming Three handsome Volumes, and will contain

PORTRAITS OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED GENERALS,
AND
REPRESENTATIONS OF SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT
BATTLES,

Together with numerous PLANS OF BATTLES, several MAPS, and a great number of Wood ENGRAVINGS, illustrative of European and Eastern Warfare.

Four Parts of this highly interesting and National Work complete the FIRST VOLUME; the Fifth was published on the First of January, 1840.

* * * The Volume is Handsomely Bound, price only One Guinea.

ILLUSTRATIONS TO PART I.—Portrait of his Grace, when Colonel Wellesley, from a Picture by Home, painted at Calcutta—Death of Dhoondiah, from a Picture painted for this Work, by A. Cooper, R. A.—View of Strathfieldsaye, from a Drawing made for this Work, by C. B. Campion—and a variety of Wood Engravings.

ILLUSTRATIONS TO PART II.—Portrait of the Marquis Wellesley, from a Picture by Sir Thomas Lawrence—Battle of Assaye, from a Picture by A. Cooper, R. A. painted for this Work—a Map of the Seat of War in India, and Plans of Assaye and Argaul, besides many Wood Engravings.

ILLUSTRATIONS TO PART III.—Portrait of the Marquis of Anglesey, painted by Sir Thomas Lawrence—Storming the Centre Pass at Rolica, painted by A. Cooper, R. A. for this Work—Plans of the Battles of Rolica and Vimiero, and several Wood Engravings.

ILLUSTRATIONS TO PART IV.—Portrait of General Lord Hill, from a superb Painting by Pickersgill—the Passage of the Rio Grande, painted by A. Cooper, R. A.—a beautiful Map of Spain and Portugal, shewing the Seat of War, and many interesting Wood Engravings.

In 18mo., gilt edges, only 4s. bound,

THE PARLIAMENTARY GUIDE
FOR 1840,

BY R. B. MOSSE, Esq.
Corrected.

Comprising Forty-two Pages of additional and most useful matter in the Peerage part, and considerable additions and improvements in the Commons, with the Divisions in both Houses of Parliament, from the Reform Bill to the late Division on the Corn Laws.

* * * Several New Editions of this Work are published in the course of each Session, with the latest Corrections.

London: A. H. BAILY & Co., 83, Cornhill.

It is
A.D.

